

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 27, 2009 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-29 and 31 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-31 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 27, 30, and 31 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections to the claims for the reasons discussed below.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Agrawal (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0083127) in view of Wu (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0143646).

Applicants note that the subject application has a filing date of June 23, 2005, and claims priority to international application No. PCT/IB2002/004388, which was filed on October 9, 2002. Wu has a publication date of June 29, 2006, and a filing date of December 23, 2004. Because the publication date and the filing date of Wu are after priority date of the subject application, Wu fails cannot qualify as prior art under section 102 or section 103.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Agrawal and Wu is deficient. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-31 be withdrawn for at least the reasons stated above.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-31 has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be allowed, and the application pass to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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